

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (New) A separator tank for a main pump, the separator tank comprising:  
an main inlet for receiving pump fluid for the pump;  
a main outlet for providing pump fluid to the pump;  
a reservoir for accommodating pump fluid between the main inlet and the main outlet;  
an air port in fluid communication with the reservoir, the air port positioned above an expected level of the pump fluid in the reservoir; and  
a sensor for sensing a level of pump fluid in the reservoir, the sensor providing an electrical signal that provides an indication of the level of pump fluid in the reservoir.

39. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the electronic sensor is an electro-mechanical sensor.

40. (New) separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the electronic sensor is a temperature sensor.

41. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the electronic sensor is a conductivity sensor.

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42. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the electronic sensor is a pressure sensor.

43. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the electronic sensor is an optical sensor.

44. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the sensor is provided along a side wall of the reservoir.

45. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the sensor is provided adjacent a side wall of the reservoir.

46. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the sensor includes a float.

47. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the sensor provides an electrical signal that indicates if the level of pump fluid in the reservoir exceeds a predetermined level or not.

48. (New) A separator tank according to claim 1 wherein the sensor provides an electrical signal that indicates a level of pump fluid in the reservoir along a range of levels.

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49. (New) A separator tank for a main pump, the separator tank comprising:
- an main inlet for receiving pump fluid for the pump;
  - a main outlet for providing pump fluid to the pump;
  - a reservoir for accommodating pump fluid between the main inlet and the main outlet;
  - the reservoir having a main reservoir and a reservoir extension, the reservoir extension positioned above an expected level of the pump fluid in the reservoir and having a reduced cross-sectional area relative to the main reservoir; and
  - an air port in fluid communication with the reservoir extension.
50. (New) A separator tank according to claim 12 wherein the reservoir extension extends from the top of the main reservoir in an upward direction.
51. (New) A separator tank according to claim 13 wherein the air port is positioned at the top of the reservoir extension.
52. (New) A separator tank according to claim 12 wherein the air port is at least selectively in fluid communication with a vacuum pump.

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53. (New) A separator tank according to claim 12 further comprising a deflector positioned adjacent to, but spaced from, the air port, the deflector for deflecting pump fluid that is directed at the air port.

54. (New) A pump comprising:  
a separator tank having a main inlet for receiving pump fluid for the pump, a main outlet for providing pump fluid to the pump, a reservoir for accommodating pump fluid between the main inlet and the main outlet, an air port in fluid communication with the reservoir, the air port positioned above an expected level of the pump fluid in the reservoir, and a sensor for sensing a level of pump fluid in the reservoir, the sensor providing an electrical signal that provides an indication of the level of pump fluid in the reservoir;

a vacuum pump for providing a vacuum;  
a valve having a first position and a second position, the first position fluidly connecting the vacuum pump to the air port of the reservoir and the second position fluidly connecting the vacuum pump to atmosphere;

a sensor for sensing a level of pump fluid in the reservoir; and  
a controller coupled to the sensor and the valve, the controller providing a delay after the sensor senses a level of pump fluid in the reservoir before switching the valve from the first position to the second position and/or between the second position to the first position.

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55. (New) The pump of claim 17 wherein the controller provides a delay after the sensor senses a first predetermined level of pump fluid in the reservoir before switching the valve from the first position to the second position.

56. (New) The pump of claim 18 wherein the controller provides a delay after the sensor senses a second predetermined level of pump fluid in the reservoir before switching the valve from the second position to the first position.

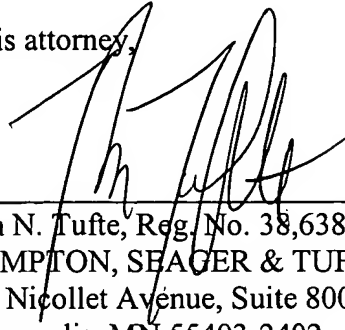
57. (New) The pump of claim 19 wherein the first predetermined level is higher than the second predetermined level.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By his attorney,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian N. Tufte', is written over a horizontal line.

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